

The Commission

Signatory Members

New York



Gov. George E. Pataki
Chair



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Alternate

Delaware



Gov. Thomas R. Carper
Vice Chair



Nicholas A. DiPasquale
Alternate

United States



Maj. Gen. Jerry L. Sinn
Second Vice Chair



Col. George C. Clarke
Alternate

Pennsylvania



Gov. Tom Ridge
Member



Irene B. Brooks
Alternate

New Jersey



Gov. Christine Todd Whitman
Member



Robert C. Shinn, Jr.
Alternate

Alternates/Advisors

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John L. Middelkoop
Second Alternate

Warren T. Lavery
Third Alternate

Joel A. Miele, Sr.
Advisor

Delaware

Kevin C. Donnelly
Second Alternate

Dr. Harry W. Otto
Third Alternate

United States

Lt. Col. Debra M. Lewis
Advisor

Pennsylvania

William A. Gast
Second Alternate

Kumar Kishinchand
Advisor

New Jersey

Robert Tudor
Second Alternate

DRBC Executive Director



Carol R. Collier

DRBC Deputy Executive Director



Dr. Jeffrey Featherstone

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The Commission at a Glance

The members of the commission are the governors of the four basin states (Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, and Delaware) and a federal member appointed by the President of the United States. A federal alternate commissioner also is appointed and the governors select high-ranking officials in the four state environmental regulatory agencies as their representatives.

Annual elections are held for commission chair, vice chair, and second vice chair, based on a rotation of the five signatory parties.

The commission holds regular business meetings and hearings on policy matters and water resource projects under regulatory review. These sessions, along with meetings of the commission's various advisory committees, are open to the public.

Each commissioner has one vote of equal power, with a majority vote needed to decide most issues.

The commission (in good years) is funded by the five signatory parties, receiving additional revenue from project review fees, water use charges, fines, and private and public grants.

The Basin

The Delaware, the last major un-dammed river east of the Mississippi, extends 282 miles from the confluence of its East and West branches near the Catskill Mountain town of Hancock, N.Y., to the head of the Delaware Bay.

The river is fed by 216 tributaries, the largest being the Schuylkill and Lehigh Rivers in Pennsylvania.

In all, the basin takes in 13,539 square miles, draining parts of Pennsylvania, New York, Delaware, and New Jersey.



The basin is a source of water supply for approximately 17.5 million people. This includes 7.5 million people living within the watershed's boundaries and 10 million living outside the basin — mostly either in New York City or northern New Jersey.

About 40 percent of the basin's potable water is exported to the city and the Garden State through underground aqueducts and the Delaware and Raritan (D&R) Canal.

The volume of potable water withdrawn from the basin ranged from some 688,000 million gallons in 1990 to 637,000 million gallons in 1996. This represents a 5.2 percent decrease over the seven years, a period during which the basin's population increased by two percent.

This trend serves as a strong indicator that water conservation programs, like the ones administered by the commission, are working.

Officers Elected

New York Governor George E. Pataki was elected the commission's chair on June 23, 1999.

Elected vice chair was Delaware Governor Thomas R. Carper; the federal representative was elected second vice chair.

Their terms ran from July 1, 1999 through June 30, 2000.

The elections, conducted at a regular monthly commission meeting, have historically been based on an annual rotation of the five signatory parties.

New Appointments

Nicholas A. DiPasquale, secretary of the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC), was appointed on June 23, 1999 to serve as Governor Carper's representative on the commission.

Mr. DiPasquale joined DNREC in 1993 as the director of the Division of Air and Waste Management. He was instrumental in implementing the state's Hazardous Substances Cleanup Act and "Brownfields" program and developing Delaware's Extremely Hazardous Substances Program, which has become a national model.

Before coming to Delaware, Mr. DiPasquale spent seven years with the Missouri Department of Natural Resources.

A native of Rochester, N.Y., he is a U.S. Navy veteran having served from 1970 to 1976 as an electronics technician and reactor operator aboard the USS Stonewall Jackson, a Poseidon Class submarine.

He holds a bachelor's degree in public administration from State University of New York, Brockport, and a master's in energy and environmental policy from Washington University, St. Louis.

Kevin C. Donnelly, director of DNREC's Division of Water Resources, was named by Governor Carper to serve as his second alternate on the DRBC.

As director, Mr. Donnelly supervises some 130 full-time employees and administers a \$21 million budget.

The Division of Water Resources is responsible for monitoring and assessing the quality of the state's ground and surface waters, overseeing the use and management of water supplies, and regulating wastewater discharges.



Mr. Donnelly

Mr. Donnelly previously had served as an environmental program administrator in DNREC's Division of Soil and Water Conservation

where he headed up the Delaware Nonpoint Source Management Program under the Clean Water Act and the Sediment and Stormwater Management Program.

He holds a bachelor's degree in forestry with a minor in land use planning from the University of Maine in Orono.

Farewell!

David B. Everett, who rose to chief engineer during a 32-year career with the commission, retired in 1999, as did his wife, Carol, a secretary in both the Administrative Division and the Public Information Office for 12 years.

Mr. Everett joined the DRBC as a water resources engineer, advancing to head of the Project Review Branch, then to the chief engineer post which he held for eleven years.

He was one of the leading architects of the commission's flow management and drought operating plans and a strong advocate of the DRBC's water conservation program that won national acclaim.

As a mentor to younger staff members, he provided invaluable guidance in their professional growth and development.

Mr. Everett also will be remembered by commission staff for his problem solving abilities and his institutional memory that served as a valuable asset to those around him.

Ms. Everett is remembered for her loyalty and work ethic that often kept her at her post well past closing time simply because there was a task she felt needed to be completed.

She was someone you could always depend on.

Susan M. Weisman, who served as an officer of the commission in the capacity of secretary, retired on August 1, 1999.

A stickler for detail and accuracy, she was in large part responsible for the smooth operation of commission meetings and public hearings. Her finely honed professional skills also were evident in her preparation of complex public and legal notices, as well as policy resolutions for commission action.

She performed these duties with a record of hard working dependability, competence and sound judgment for 17 years.

Ronald Rulon, a commission employee for 31 years, also retired in 1999.

An engineer, Ron wore many hats during his career, serving in the old Water Quality Branch, the Planning Branch, and the Project Review Branch.

He was highly regarded for his skills in dealing with complex water quality permits, and had another distinction — perhaps the longest commute of any DRBC employee.

He resides in the Mullica River bank town of Sweetwater, N.J., where the fishing and hunting made all those tedious miles from the office to home worthwhile.

We Miss You

The commission lost two friends in 1999.

H. Page Fielding, the DRBC's senior geologist who over a career of three decades captured the respect of fellow workers through his steadfast commitment to exact science, and Mary H. Zaroff, a versatile and talented secretary who retired in 1992 after serving 21 years in a variety of positions, died during the year.

A honed craftsman from the old school, Mr. Fielding radiated a keen understanding of earth's complex formations. He was intolerant of non-scientific cures for scientific ills, at times offering gruff rebukes to those who dared tread on nature's natural laws.

Ms. Zaroff joined the commission in 1970 and over the years provided secretarial support for the chief engineer, the chief administrative officer, the Operations Branch, and the old Water Quality Branch.

A warm and caring person, she met adversity with a smile.

Promotions

The commission has two new managers — Warren Huff has been promoted to head of the Information Services Branch and Thomas Brand to head of the Project Review Branch.

Mr. Brand, whose artistic talents can be found on the covers of many DRBC publications, joined the commission in 1989.

Prior to that, he worked for BCM Engineers, Environmental Systems, and Chicago Bridge and Iron. His experience includes the design and construction of dams, bridges, and water distribution systems, as well as wetlands restoration and geo-structural investigations.

Mr. Brand has a bachelor of science degree in civil engineering from the University of Delaware and a bachelor of arts degree in fine arts from the University of the Arts in Philadelphia.

In addition to creating covers for commission reports, he designed the commission's popular new logo.

While working as a water resources planner at the commission, Mr Huff caught the computer bug and began taking evening courses at Beaver College to learn more about this fast paced technology. He went on to earn a second college degree, this one in computer science.

He then was named the DRBC's supervisor of computer operations, playing a key role in moving the commission into the computer age.

In addition to proving computer support, the Information Services Branch is the hub for GIS mapping, library services, and water use inventory. It also works closely with the commission's Public Information Office in the on-going development of the DRBC web site.



Deputy Delaware River Master Gary Paulachok stands in front of the Montague, N.J. gage that measures flow in the river downstream of New York City's three water supply reservoirs. Mr. Paulachok was appointed deputy river master in February of 1999.

Former Deputy River Master William Harkness listens to testimony at a January 5, 1999 commission meeting to address worsening drought conditions in the basin. Mr. Harkness played a key role in administering the commission's drought operating plan during his 15 years in the post. He officially retired on April 3, 1999. (AP/Wide World Photos)



Deputy River Master Named

Gary N. Paulachok, a 20-year veteran with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), was named Deputy Delaware River Master on Feb. 12, 1999, succeeding William Harkness, who had held the post for 15 years.

In announcing the appointment, Delaware River Master William J. Carswell thanked Mr. Harkness "for an outstanding job" and wished him the very best in his future endeavors.

Mr. Paulachok had previously served as USGS's Pennsylvania representative and the state's district chief of the Survey's Water Resources Division. In that capacity he was responsible for hydrologic data collection, studies, and research programs conducted by a staff of 125 scientists, technicians, and support personnel.

Mr. Paulachok received his undergraduate degree in environmental geology from Temple University and a master's degree in engineering geology from Drexel University.

He has taught graduate courses in hydrology at Drexel and also to personnel of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control, and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.

The deputy river master, who is stationed in Milford, Pa., oversees the diversions of water from New York City's three upper basin reservoirs to the city as well as releases from the reservoirs into the Delaware River to maintain a minimum streamflow for the benefit of downstream users. The water apportionment formula resulted from a 1954 U.S. Supreme Court decree that settled a dispute over water allocations in the basin.

Welcome Aboard

These employees were hired during the calendar year 1999:

Gail Blum, water resources technician; Forsyth Kineon, coordinator, Delaware Estuary Program; Clarke Rupert, assistant public information officer; Patricia McSparran, water resources

engineer; Esther Siskind, integrated resources planner; Pamela Bush, commission secretary; and Hernan Quinodoz, geohydrologist.

Getting to Know You

The commission stepped up efforts during 1999 to educate the basin's citizens and congressional delegation about its policies and programs with the hope of generating heightened constituent input and federal backing to help shape future initiatives.

The creation of the River Basin Washington Project (RBWP) was an important step in the process.

The project is designed to help advance interstate watershed management within the Delaware, Susquehanna, and Potomac river basins. In particular, it seeks to educate members of Congress about river basin issues and increase their legislative profile.

To advance these efforts, basin bipartisan task forces have been assembled.

The House Delaware River Basin Task Force is co-chaired by U.S. Reps. Sherwood Boehlert (R-N.Y.), Robert Borski (D-Pa.), Michael Castle (R-Del.), and Rush Holt (D-N.J.).

The RBWP was created by the Northeast-Midwest Institute, a nonprofit and nonpartisan research organization based in the nation's capitol.

The RBWP organizes briefings on Capitol Hill and congressional staff trips to the river basins. It also is seeking support for federal funding of basin-related projects and programs.

The Northeast-Midwest Institute, formed in the mid-1970s, is dedicated to economic vitality, environmental quality, and regional equity for Northeast and Midwest states.

Listening to Constituents' Concerns

Another example of heightened outreach to improve commission visibility was a panel discussion on land use changes, impacts on water resources, and the image of the Delaware River Basin, held in Jim Thorpe, Pa. on October 26, the day before a regularly scheduled commission meeting.

The public event was co-sponsored by the Economic Development Council of Northeastern Pennsylvania (EDCNP) and the commission.

It was designed to give the DRBC commissioners and staff an opportunity to learn about the special interests and concerns of the commission's constituents in the Lehigh River Watershed and also a chance for EDCNP staff to discuss their interests in the basin with commission personnel.

Panelists included Howard J. Grossman, the EDCNP's executive director; Carol R. Collier, executive director of the DRBC; Davis R. Chant, president, Pike County Chamber of Commerce; Jim Clauser, director, Carbon County Conservation District; Mathilda Harrison, deputy executive director, Pocono Mountains Vacation Bureau; Tom Kerr, executive director, Wildlands Conservancy; William McDonnell, director of the Northeast Regional Office of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection; Fred Osifat, director, Carbon County Planning Commission; Alan Saches, executive director, Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor; and Craig Todd, director, Monroe County Conservation District.

The EDCNP is a private nonprofit corporation organized to further economic, social, and physical development in Carbon, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Monroe, Pike, Schuylkill, and Wayne counties.

Kinder Kilowatts

The commission has entered into an agreement with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to take part in its Energy Star Buildings and Green Lights Program.

The project is designed to cut energy use in office buildings through advanced technology.

To date, the commission has purchased Energy Star computers and an energy-saving chiller (air conditioning unit) and installed energy efficient lighting and additional roofing insulation.

It also has a waterless urinal in one of its lavatories and has installed low-flow plumbing fixtures in a new handicap-equipped bathroom.